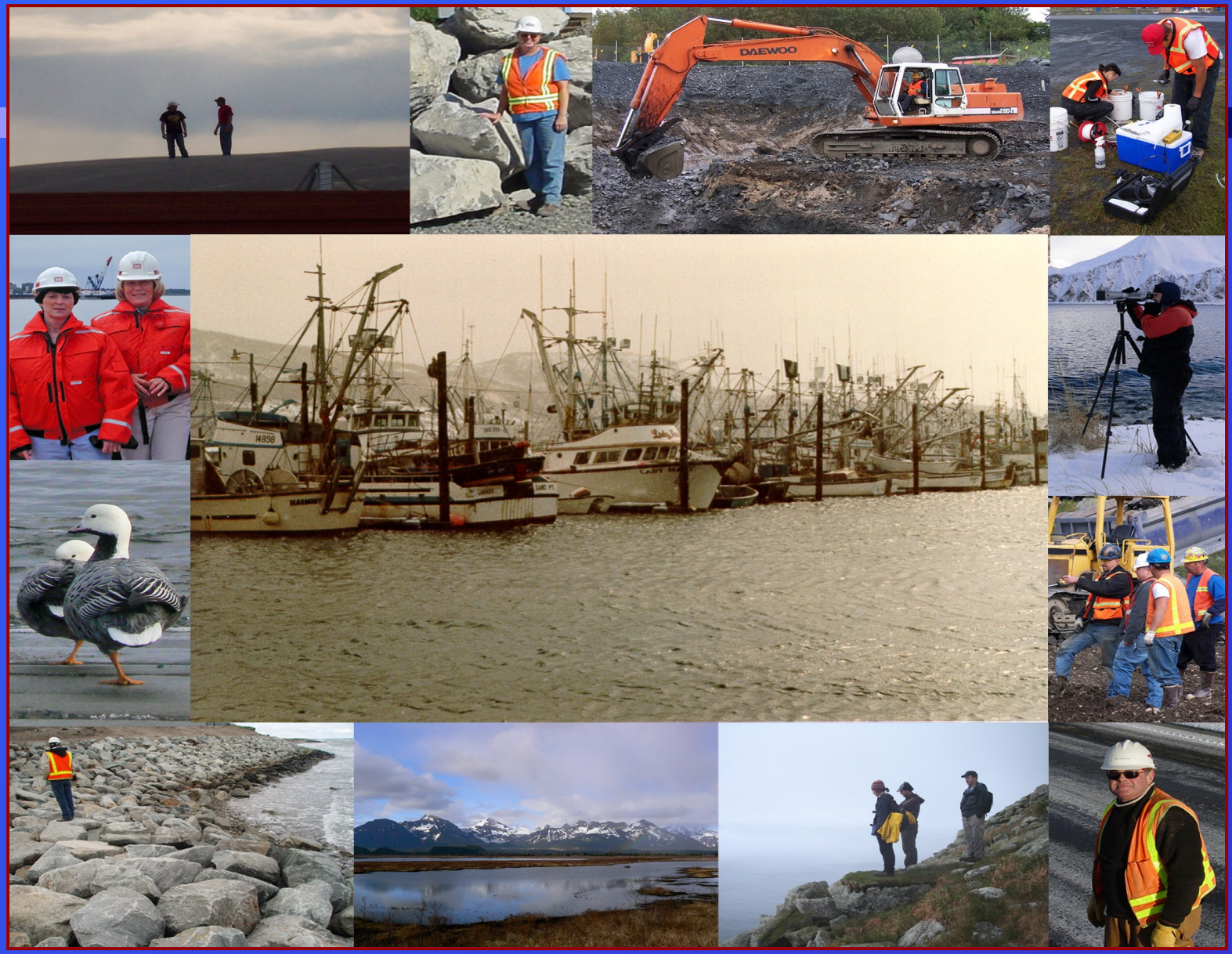


Planning Community of Practice Conference

Alaska Regional Ports and Harbors Conference Summary

Presented to
Planning Community of Practice
May 2008

Presented by
Lorraine Cordova, Alaska District

Conference Goals

- Bring together marine transportation users, providers, and agencies to discuss future of Alaska's maritime needs
- Identify problems, issues, and opportunities
- Figure out how to work together to solve the problems, address the issues, and take advantage of the opportunities
- Discuss long-term visions – stimulate thinking

Problem Statement

- A perceived lack of planning for marine transportation in Alaska. The conference brought together anyone and everyone who might have an interest in the topic.
  - Transportation users, providers, local, state, and federal agencies
  - City and borough governments
  - Tribal entities

Participants – Senior Leaders

- State Representative Don Young
- State Senator Lisa Murkowski's offic
- Dena'ina Elder – Native Village of Eklutna
- Corps (HQ, IWR, Division)
- Alaska District Commander
  - Along with about 20 District employees

Participants (Continued)

- Transportation Users
  - Alaska Miners Association
  - TOTE
  - Crowley
  - AK Dept. of Community and Economic Development
  - Ports of Anchorage and MacKenzie
- Transportation Providers
  - Alaska Dept. of Transportation
  - Alaska Railroad Corporation

Participants (Continued)

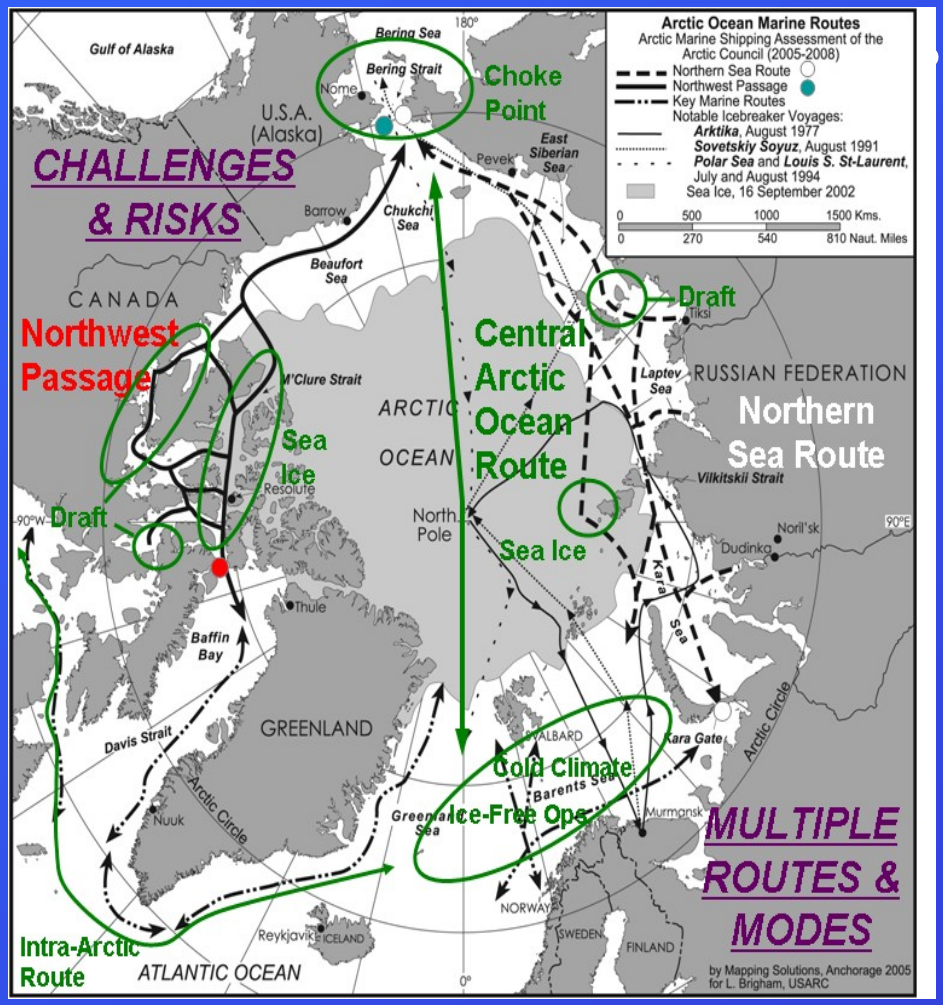
- Government Agencies (local, state, federal)
  - Denali Commission
  - U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
  - North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC)
  - National Oceanic and Administrative Administration (NOAA)
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - National Weather Service (NWS)
  - Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
  - Nature Conservancy
  - Canadian Consulate
  - Alaska Ocean Observing System
  - Northwest Arctic Borough
  - Aleutians East Borough
  - Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.
  - Native Corporations (Tyonek, Bering Straits, Kawerak, Point Hope, NANA, Arctic Slope)
  - Cities of Seward, Haines

Waterways

None of Alaska's Rivers have the transportation infrastructure that

Locks and Dams are on almost every major river in the lower 48

Issues and Opportunities



Conference Topics

- Northern Sea Route
- Arctic ship traffic
- global warming
- Canadian rail extension
- Community relocation
- barge access
- USACE appropriation process

The Successful Formula

- Organized small but motivated PDT
- Identified conference purpose (hardest part of the process)
- Utilized professional facilitator
- Invited key players from the state and industry
- Organized conference
  - Roundtable and panel discussions
  - Lunches provided (at participants cost)
  - Note takers at each table
  - Breakout sessions - reporting back to the whole group

The Approach

- First asked “Why are you here today?”
  - Responses helped to lead discussions over the next two days
  - Partnership opportunities became apparent
  - Data gaps were identified
  - Willingness and ability for agencies to collaborate were examined

Speaks to the Need

- Overwhelming response from participants
  - Most invited speakers readily agreed
  - Room for 100 but the participants mushroomed to 125 over the course of the conference – additional tables and chairs brought in
  - Participants stayed for entire conference, worked through lunches, and stayed well beyond the end of day
  - Television coverage nightly during the conference

Varied Points of View

- Users
  - Focus on bottom line and how to get the job done
  - Build rail connection to Canadian system
  - Develop rural Alaska resources
  - Improve inter-community transportation
  - Look at development versus environmental concerns
  - Devise comprehensive ports and harbors plan for Alaska
  - Evaluate regional transportation systems

Marine Transportation Users

Port MacKenzie loading facility

Sealand container leaving the Port of Anchorage

Varied Points of View (cont'd)

- Providers
  - Organizations more involved with process, budgeting, and avoiding risk
  - Improve permitting process with Corps
  - Engage State leadership
  - Respond to increased cruise traffic
  - Cost-share with local communities
  - Cultivate cooperation from all agencies
  - Look at integrated marine transportation for large and small communities

Varied Points of View (cont'd)

- Government agencies
  - Want to be able to identify pieces – not whole project – they can take on
  - Use holistic approach to planning and project development
  - Develop partnerships
  - Include ports and harbors in State's Long-Term Transportation Plan
  - Look at big picture and economic drivers
  - Make sure to involve local communities, tribes, and agencies in planning

Varied Points of View (cont'd)

- Communities
  - Want jobs, better communication, and increased connectivity
  - Include rural communities and tribal councils in process
  - Train local people for future job opportunities
  - Develop more ways to share information and communicate
  - Move Corps administrative offices into rural Alaska
  - Promote multiuse of Alaska's ports and harbors
  - Ensure long-term plans are flexible and collaborative
  - Install weather monitors in harbors as well as airports

Bringing it all Together

- Develop shared vision for Alaska navigation
- Identify lead agency
- Form steering committee
- Employ USACE planners in State plans
- Engage in effective communication
- Hold regular Ports and Harbors conferences
- Complete reconnaissance report which currently recommends 18 feasibility studies

Takeaway Points

- Key to bring those affected together
- Invite others to tell their story…. then listen
- Organize a team that can get the job done
- Ask for help when you run into blockades
- Figure out how to keep the momentum going

Questions?

Alaska Regional Ports and Harbors Conference documents and summary are posted online at:

http://www.poa/usace.army.mil/en/cw/index.htm

or for more information:

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